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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2006

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, 1 May 2006

Derek Mason called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Call for a quorum. It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

Shawn Olsen moved to accept the 3 April 2006 minutes as written, seconded by Terry Peak, carried.

Announcements

Jeff Walters's long stint as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian will end this year. A plaque and gift certificate to the Painted Table was presented to him.

University Business

Stan Albrecht presented University Business. A thank you was given to Jeff Walters, Derek Mason, and Lynn Dudley with a welcome was to John Kras who will be the Faculty Senate President next year.

2005-2006 Year Summary

- New Library
- New Performance Hall
- The second and third largest private gifts in the history of the University
- Continued excellence of faculty and students
- Launch of the Regional Campus Concept/Regional Graduations
- Launch of major reorganization with Continuing moving under the Provost/Academic side
- Launch of reorganization under Noelle Cockett as the Vice President for Agriculture and Extension
- Preparation for the Capitol Campaign and the official launch will happen next year
- Legislature: USTAR hires have been made, and an official announcement will be made
- Enrollment numbers are up and quality of students are not being sacrificed
 - Up 16% in Freshman admits
 - Up 40% in Freshman enrolled
 - Up 14% in Transfer admits
 - Up 22% in Transfer enrolled
 - Up 50% in Soar
- Globalization: Trip to China to sign a number of agreements with Chinese Universities for Research Collaborations. In Beijing they will meet with the Minister of Science and Technology.
- This year will ever be marked by the loss of the eight ASTE students and faculty member, as well as the loss of friends, such as Ken Brewer.
- Graduation will be Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6. All are encouraged to attend.

Department Head Evaluation Report

Ray Coward presented the Department Head Evaluation Report. The response rate across the University was 86 percent; more than 500 faculty to take the time and fill out the survey. A number of departments had a 100 percent response rate including both large and small departments. The first summary judgments question is “I believe the department would be better off if we replaced the current head/chair.” The answer is 11 percent—57 of 516 individuals—the concentration is in seven departments. The second summary judgment is “I have confidence in the head/chair’s ability to provide leadership to the department.” The answer is 80 percent, 410 of 516 people. The information has been distributed to the department heads and deans. The Provost will be meeting with each individual dean, and they will meet individually with each department head. On May 11, the Provost is meeting with the department heads as a group, and will be giving norms from Utah State University. Finally, in the Fall they will be asked to talk about the feedback with their faculty members. Utah State University is more satisfied with out department heads than the national norm. A large number of faculty who feel that the resources that we have as a University are not up to their needs. The long-term purpose of the survey is to give feedback to the department head so they can get better, without feedback it is difficult to get better.

Consent Agenda

John Kras motioned to accept the consent agenda with the change of in EPC Business that Ed Reeve is on the EPC Committee and not Darwin Sorenson seconded by Jeff Larson, carried.

Note: EPC Business for April has four action items: Note EPC Business for April has four action items: 1) A request from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to offer a Master of Science in Computer Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Computer Engineering, 2) A request from the College of Natural Resources to change the prefix for courses in the new Department of Watershed Sciences (formerly AWER) be designated as WATS and the prefix for courses in the new Department of Wildland Resources (formerly FRWS) be designated as WILD, effective Spring 2007, 3) A request from the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, together with Continuing Education, to approve the Master of Social Work program to be offered on the Logan campus and 3 distance education sites, and 4) The General Education Subcommittee presented the following language to be included in the Code 402.12.6:

The General Education Subcommittee reserves the right to review the syllabi and instructors of all USU courses, and all courses used for Breadth and Depth in the University Studies Program, under the following circumstances:

1. Whenever a new person is assigned to teach the course.
2. Whenever there is a significant change in the course content.
3. Whenever the course has not been taught for at least three years.
4. At five year intervals.
5. Whenever the course evaluations are low enough that there is cause for concern.

The review will determine if the syllabus of the course meets the expectations of the University Studies Program. The Subcommittee will offer an opportunity for the course to be revised as needed to meet expectation; failing that, it has the authority to remove a course or an instructor from University Studies offerings if expectations are not met.

New Chairs: Richard Mueller will be chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee and Scot Allgood will take over Academic Standards Subcommittee.

An additional handout was distributed to supplement the ADVANCE Report. Also a substitute document was distributed because information had been updated in relations to the Faculty Evaluations Report.

Information Items

Committee on Committees Report

Eden Summers displayed the document. To look at the document in more detail a link has been added to the main faculty senate page and it is also attached to the agenda.

Old Business: Action Items

Domestic Partner Benefits Proposal from the BFW Report

Barry Franklin moved to accept and recommend the revised same-sex domestic partner benefits proposal to President Albrecht, seconded by Maure Smith, carried (outcome of the vote by ballot: 30 yes, 14 no, 2 abstentions).

Key Issues and Action Items

PRPC Business

Jennifer MacAdam presented PRPC Business. Maure Smith motioned to stop the discussion of PRPC Business as 4:20 pm, seconded by Janice Hall, carried (1 no).

Action Items for final approval:

- Action Item number 1: *Role Statement Revision*—John Kras motioned to recommend the proposed code change to President Albrecht, seconded by Lori Roggman, carried.
- Action Item number 2: *Dean's Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee*—Shawn Olsen motioned to recommend the proposed code change to President Albrecht, seconded by Steve Burr, failed (12 yes, 24 no). After discussion, John Kras motioned to send back to PRPC to delete the words “primarily administrative, including that of”, seconded by Maure Smith, carried.
- Action Item number 3: *Deadline for Initial Promotion Committee Meeting*—John Kras motioned to recommend the proposed code change to President Albrecht, seconded by Sylvia Reed, carried (4 no, 1 abstention).
- Action Item number 4: *Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility*—Jan Alm motioned to recommend the proposed code change to President Albrecht with the change of one word to “identify”, seconded by Will Pependorf, carried.

Due to time the information items were not addressed.

Information Items:

- Information Item number 1: *Alternative Course Requirements Policy*.
- Information Item number 2: *Role Statement Criteria for Award of Tenure and Promotion – Excellence in a Minor Role*.
- Information Item number 3: *Supervisors on Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee*.

Lynn Dudley motioned for a resolution to have the Course Content and Sincerely Held Core Beliefs policy/document placed in the Policy Manual located in the Provost Office while the faculty senate is adjourned for the summer, seconded by John Kras, carried.

New Business

Derek Mason was presented with a plaque and gift certificate to the Painted Table as a thank you for serving as Faculty Senate President during 2005-2006.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.